

## CLAIMS

1. A method of retrieval of stored images stored with metadata for at least some of the  
5 stored images, the metadata comprising at least one entry specifying
  - (a) a part of the respective image;
  - (b) another stored image; and
  - (c) a measure of the degree of similarity between the specified part and the specified other stored image; the method comprising
    - 10 i. displaying one or more images;
    - ii. receiving input from a user indicative of part of the displayed images;
    - iii. determining measures of interest for each of a plurality of non-displayed stored images specified by the metadata for the displayed image(s), as a function of the similarity measure(s) and the relationship between the user input and the part specified;
    - 15 iv. selecting from those non-displayed stored images, on the basis of the determined measures, further images for display.
2. A method according to Claim 1 in which the receiving of input from a user is  
20 performed by means operable to observe movement of the user's eye.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 in which the user input identifies image locations and associated attention durations, and each measure of interest is the sum of individual measures for each identified location that is within a predetermined distance of a specified part,  
25 each said individual measure being a function of the attention duration that is associated with the identified location and the similarity measure that is associated with the specified part.
4. A method according to claim 3 in which each individual measure is the product of the duration and the similarity measure.  
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5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims in which the specified parts of the images are points within the images.
6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the specified parts of the  
35 images are regions thereof.

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims in which steps (ii) to (iv) are repeated at least once.

5 8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims further including the initial steps of:  
receiving one or more external images;  
generating said metadata in respect of the external image(s); and  
displaying the external image(s).